

insuperable, and his plan, which was excellent in theory, was given up on account of them.

How perfectly insurmountable these difficulties will become when "red-hot plates" are employed," is known to every engineer; and in heartily wishing M. Beauregard every success from his invention, I must recommend him to seek it from water in other forms than its "spheroidal state," and produced by other than "red-hot" surfaces.

WM. JEAKES, JUN.

SANITARY PROGRESS.

It appears evident from the medical inspector, Mr. Grainger's reports to the Board of Health, that the open ditches and other abominations in the neighbourhood of Mr. Drouet's establishment for pauper children, at Lower Tooting, together with the crowding of nearly 1,400 children into an improperly planned, ill ventilated, and incommodious establishment, were predisposing causes, which, together with the epidemic condition of the atmosphere, produced so many cases of cholera among the children. Doubtless, too, pauper fare was an additional predisposing cause, otherwise the evil might have affected others in the same unwholesome vicinity, where moats of foul black putrefaction show an open surface of between 40,000 and 50,000 square feet to the face of day. Shortly previous to the outbreak, one of the foul ditches near the premises was emptied, and the filthy mud spread upon the banks in contravention of the regulations of the Board of Health, a circumstance quite sufficient of itself to explain the predisposition of these children, in particular, to such an attack in such a neighbourhood.—A superintendent inspector is to be forthwith sent to Birmingham, at the request of the town, to make public inquiry as to the sewerage, water, burial grounds, &c.

—The Smoke Nuisance Committee of the Birmingham Street Commissioners have reported favourably of its suppression throughout the town. Thirty-one steam engines are under periodical inspection. Some of the worst chimneys at Newhall-hill have been rendered smokeless.—Mr. Smith, of Deanston, has been engaged in sanitary inquiry at Lancaster, where the rate of mortality is above the average, and where Government have, therefore, sent Mr. Smith, without any petition from the inhabitants, who seem to be reckless of their had pre-eminence in the provincial "bills of mortality."—An instalment of the complete and thorough sewerage of the borough of Newcastle has been announced, in the shape of an advertisement for tenders for the construction of two great sewers, one along Pilgrim-street and Northumberland-street, from the Royal Arcade to St. Mary's-place; and the other from Union-street, by Newgate-street, to Green-court.—The Glasgow magistrates are ordering the discontinuance of burials in various overcrowded burying grounds within the city bounds as nuisances. The details are just a repetition of those awful and sickening desecrations of the sacred remains of humanity with which the public are already but too familiar in reports of the state of intramural grave-yards.

RAILWAY JOTTINGS.

THE calls for January amount to 2,547,225*l.* about a million and a quarter more than for last month.—On the London and North-Western the following persons are employed, including those occupied in the collection and delivery of goods:—2 secretaries; 1 manager, 2 superintendents, 960 clerks, 3,054 porters, 701 police constables, 738 engine and firemen, 3,347 artificers, 1,452 labourers: total number, 10,263. The number of horses employed is 612, ditto vans, &c., 253. This great company has virtually abandoned the unworthy design of clipping their clerks' salaries of a per centage, under the pretence of a "mutual" assurance fund scheme against defalcations. A per centage of 2*d.* a pound, however, was first exacted, with a circular threat of dismissal against all grumblers, though "the full concurrence of the parties affected," is now alleged to have been a proviso of this notable

scheme. The London and North-Western have succeeded in reducing their rates in the Warwickshire district from 1,500*l.* to 500*l.* per mile, and in another from 800*l.* to 400*l.*—The recorder of Canterbury has respited the rating case of the South-Eastern in Canterbury, the company to pay half the amount of future rates, till a decision of appeals, and the parish to allow the company any sums that may be paid in excess.—Nearly 30,000 gallons of milk are now sent weekly to the metropolis along the different lines of railway.

—The Edinburgh and Northern have compromised the suit brought against them on behalf of the children of Mr. Wilson, dentist, Edinburgh, who was killed by falling into a cellar at the station, in October, 1847, for 1,100*l.*, each party paying their own expenses.

—"It is said," says *Herepath*, referring to the Dover, "that, among other things, a large sum, about 40,000*l.* (not 4,000*l.*, as erroneously printed in our last) has been used of the Company's money for other purposes. The financial statement which has been expected, it is understood, will not be presented before the meeting."—An immense mass of chalk and earth, it is said, has again fallen in within a short distance of the spot where two previous falls took place, under St. Catherine's Hill, about half a mile from Guildford, and three and a half from Godalming.—A Shropshire paper also states that the Oakenegate tunnel, near the Holyhead road, has again given way, and caused some of the road to sink in.—The embankment and sea-wall of that portion of the South Wales line which extends across the sands between Llanelly harbour and Buryport, contracted for by Mr. Joseph Douglas and others, has been almost entirely washed away by the tide. It is not ascertained whether the loss will fall upon the contractor or the company, as the work was stopped by order of the directors.—"We were the first," says the *Manchester Examiner*, "to use the electric telegraph for the purpose of reporting, on the occasion of Mr. Cobden's election for the West Riding of Yorkshire; and we learn that on the meeting in the Free-trade Hall, the office succeeded in transmitting a column and a quarter of that meeting to London, giving a summary of the proceedings, for the London papers, in three hours. The telegraph is beginning to be more appreciated as a means of communication."

METROPOLITAN COMMISSION OF SEWERS.

A SPECIAL court was held on Tuesday, at the Sewers' Office, Greek-street; the Earl of Carlisle in the chair.

A letter was read from Mr. Roe, one of the surveyors, stating that in consequence of age and imperfect eyesight, he should accept the offer of a retiring allowance of 200*l.* per annum; but should nevertheless be at all times ready to render any service to the commission in his power.

The Late Cases of Cholera at the Asylum at Tooting.—A report by Mr. Lovick on the state of Tooting, presented to the General Board of Health, was read by Mr. Hertslet to the court.

Mr. Chadwick rose and said,—The considerations arising from the reading of that report as to the effects of the effluvia from the sewers and receptacles described, upon the unfortunate occupants of the one over-crowded establishment, or the effects which might be produced upon the occupants of other establishments, whose sites are washed by the sewers, need not be dwelt upon before the court. Serious duties devolved upon the commissioners, who would have been moved to execute them at once, but that the place was not at the time the report was made within the jurisdiction of the commission. Since the new commission had been issued, Tooting had been brought under that jurisdiction, which was now called upon to exercise it. As against a summary exercise of power, it was objected that the works in question were private property. Now, in respect to the works for damming up the sewer water for productive purposes, he must allege that it was an invasion of the public property. By custom, by the usual course of legislation, and on all the principles which govern the application of such refuse, it belongs to the public, and he (Mr. Chadwick) submitted that steps should be taken to repress this invasion, and to prevent the life invasions at the expense of the lives, the health, and the convenience of the population. It appeared to him to be a case which came within the duty which devolved under the old statute of sewers, to amend and prostrate public encroachments. There could be no doubt

that the remedial principles of the old law were too commonly overlooked, and that fitting occasions to recur to them were furnished, by such cases as the present. He took the liberty of reading the text of the old law, as laid down by Blackstone.—"Every man may abate a common nuisance. The nuisance may be abated, that is, taken away or removed by the aggrieved thereby, so as he commits no riot in doing it."—"And the reason," says Blackstone, "why the law allows this private and summary method of doing one's self justice is because injuries of this kind, which obstruct or annoy such things as are of daily convenience and use, require an immediate remedy, and cannot wait for the slow progress of the ordinary forms of justice."—And the annotator adds, "That security of the lives and property may sometimes require so speedy a remedy as not to allow time to elapse on the person on whose property the mischief has arisen to remedy it." He concluded by moving "That a Committee should be appointed, to view the encroachments, and if they saw fit to order them to be abated."

Mr. Broderip seconded the resolution, which was put by the Chairman, and unanimously adopted. It was next agreed "That this operation be assigned to a district to be called the Wandale district, and the expense debited thereto."

It was ultimately agreed that Capt. V. and Messrs. Hutton, Hawes, Johnson, and R. L. Jones, be the members of such committee.

New Palace at Westminster.—Reports were then read on the drainage of the New Palace at Westminster, to which reference will be found in another page. The reading of them excited much interest.

They were ordered to be printed and circulated among the commissioners.

A deputation attended the court from the meeting, held in Westminster last week, on the subject of "street orderlies," requesting the assistance of this court to carry out their philanthropic objects.

The Earl of Carlisle said the application should receive every attention.

Mr. Cochrane (who headed the deputation), thanked his lordship for the courtesy with which they had been received.

MISCELLANEA.

YORKSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.

The quarterly committee meeting of this society was held on January 4th. It was chaired by Mr. R. H. Sharp, that in consequence of a grant made at a former meeting towards the restoration of the tower windows of St. Saviour's Church, a very liberal sum had been allowed by the feoffees and churchwardens of that church, in furtherance of this desirable object. A grant of 40*l.* was made in aid of a fund for filling the west window of St. Mary's Church, Beverley, with stained glass, the design of which was submitted to the society and approved. Other grants were also made for restorations at Thorp Arch an. Howden Churches.

WARWICKSHIRE ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—The quarterly meeting of the Warwickshire National History and Archaeological Society was held at the Museum in Thursday last week, and was well attended. The chief feature was a lecture on "The Religious Architecture of the Middle Ages, more particularly in reference to the Monuments of Egypt," by Mr. J. G. Jackson, of Birmingham.

AN EXTENSIVE UNDERTAKING.—The Chapel-hill pits, belonging to the British Dr. n. Company, are at length freed from the enormous quantities of water—the accumulation of years—which have so long flooded them, and coal has at last been found. The water, two years ago, when operations were first commenced, was 84 yards deep, and the expenditure its draining is estimated at not less than 10,000*l.* This includes the cost of engines, stacks, and whinnies, and the losses occasioned by breakages. &c.—*Manchester Chronicle.*

IRISH MANUFACTURES.—CANNES TAL CAST-IRON WINDOWS.—Mr. Messrs. McAdam, of Solihull Foundry, Edgbury, have recently completed a number of ornamental windows for the new palace of the Pasha of Egypt; they are of cast-iron, and of very large dimensions, being 20 feet high and 12 feet wide—each window weighing 5 tons. They are to be bronzed and gilt after being erected. The same firm have also erected on the banks of the Nile, for the Egyptian Government, a number of very large steam pumping-engines, to raise the water of the river for the purpose of irrigation. These facts are interesting.